

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for monitoring a location for the occurrence of an event, collecting information relating to the event, prioritizing the information and dispatching an appropriate response based on the prioritized information, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a. placing strategically located sensors having a geographic location identifier in a position adapted for monitoring the location, said sensors further adapted for generating a data signal upon the occurrence of an event;
 - b. providing response personnel and equipment with receivers adapted for receiving selected collected and analyzed data;
 - c. further providing response personnel and equipment with location sensors for generating a location signal identifying their precise geographic location at any point in time;
 - d. collecting and analyzing the data signal in order to determine the time, location and type of event; and
 - e. alerting and dispatching appropriate response personnel and equipment to the location of the event based on their proximity and resources relative to the event.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said geographic location identifiers are GPS signal generators.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said location is a moveable asset and the location identifier is adapted for providing the step of tracking the movement of said moveable asset.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the prioritizing step includes identifying the location of the moveable asset when an event occurs and determining the personnel and equipment in closest proximity to the moveable asset when the event occurs.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of placing strategically located sensors

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein said event detection sensors are event activated.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein said event detection sensors operate on a real time basis for continuous monitoring of the location and wherein there is further included the step of providing an alert signal upon the occurrence of an event.

9. The method of claim 1', including the additional step of providing personnel and equipment with a signal generator for identifying the type and/or training of the personnel and the type of asset whereby appropriately equipped assets and personnel are alerted and dispatched to the event.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the collecting step includes;
 - a. identifying the type of personnel in the system;
 - b. identifying the type of equipment in the system;
 - c. identifying the type of event occurring; and
 - d. matching the personnel and equipment to the event.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the alerting and dispatching step includes alerting the matched personnel and equipment to respond based on proximity to the event.

12. The method of claim 1, further including the step of recording the collected and analyzed data.

13. The method of claim 1, further including the step of collecting feedback data from the personnel and equipment dispatched to an event in order to assure response.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein at least one of the ground based sensors is hard-wired directly to the ground based monitoring station.

22. The system of claim 19, further including:
 collector adapted for collecting the plurality of data signals from the plurality of sensors and generating therefrom a combined signal incorporating each of the plurality of signals into a combined output signal; and
 a processing system for receiving and processing the combined output signal.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein said collector comprises a multiplexer for accepting all of the plurality of data signals and for generating therefrom a combined multiplex signal preserving the discrete identity of each of the plurality of data signals.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein said combined multiplex signal includes the plurality of signals released simultaneously in a compressed, parallel format.

27. The system of claim 22, said collector and processing system further including a self-contained power supply.

28. The system of claim 19, wherein at least one of said sensors comprises an image sensor device for generating an image signal.

29. The system of claim 28, further including an illumination source associated with said image sensor for illuminating the critical location.

30. The system of claim 28, wherein said image sensor is a full motion video sensing and recording device.

31. The system of claim 19, wherein said sensor comprises an audio sensor device for generating an audio signal.

32. The system of claim 19, wherein said sensor comprises an image sensor device for generating an image signal and at least one audio sensor device for generating an audio signal.

33. The system of claim 19, wherein said sensor comprises a motion detector device for generating a signal whenever motion is detected in the range of the device.

34. The system of claim 19, wherein said sensor comprises an intrusive sensor device for generating a signal whenever intrusive activity occurs in the monitored area of the device.

35. The system of claim 19, wherein said sensor comprises a fire detection device for generating a signal in the event of a fire.

36. The system of claim 19, wherein said sensor comprises a smoke detection device for generating a signal in the event of the presence of smoke in the range of the device.

37. The system of claim 19, wherein said transport has an on-board monitoring system

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including a network of on-board sensors adapted for monitoring specific on-board conditions and generating a data signal in response thereto, and wherein said ground based monitoring station and said network of ground based sensors are adapted to interface with said on-board monitoring system to provide comprehensive information to both the ground based monitoring station and the on-board monitoring system inclusive all of the data collected by both the on-board sensors and the ground based sensors.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein said on-board sensor is a global positioning sensor adapted for generating a signal indicating the location of the transport.

39. The system of claim 38, wherein said global positioning sensor includes a separate sensor component in each end of the transport, whereby size and heading of the transport may be monitored.

40. The system of claim 19, further including a recorder for capturing the combined output signal in a retrievable format.

41. The system of claim 19, wherein each sensor further includes a transmitter adapted for wireless transmission of the combined output signal to a remote location and wherein said ground based monitoring station includes a receiver, whereby the sensor signal may be transmitted to the monitoring station.

42. The system of claim 19, further including a mobile monitoring station for receiving the unique signal from the sensor.

43. The system of claim 19, wherein there is further included ground support equipment and ground support vehicles, and wherein each of said ground support equipment and ground vehicles includes location sensors for generating and sending ground support location signals, whereby the position of the commercial transport and relative to the ground support equipment and ground support vehicles may be monitored.

44. The system of claim 43, wherein said location sensor is an on-board GPS system.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein said commercial transport is adapted for directly receiving the ground support location sensor signals.

46. The system of claim 45, wherein said commercial transport is adapted for directly receiving the ground support location sensor signals and the location sensor signals generated by other commercial transports in the vicinity.

47. The system of claim 19, wherein said commercial transport includes a unique identifier which is adapted to be sensed by the ground based sensor, whereby the ground based sensor can generate an identification signal for alerting that the commercial transport is within range of the ground based sensor.

48. The system of claim 30, wherein said image and video sensors are responsive to the presence of activity within range in order to activate the sensor and initiate generation of a signal to the ground based monitoring station.

49. The system of claim 19, wherein said ground based sensor includes a time stamp for monitoring when said transport is within range.

50. The system of claim 19, wherein said sensor is adapted for alerting the ground based monitoring station of the situational conditions in the vicinity of the commercial transport when in port.

51. The system of claim 50, wherein said sensor is adapted for generating an alarm whenever specific conditions are present.

52. The system of claim 51, wherein said ground based monitoring station further includes a transmitter for transmitting instructional information to the sensor upon presence of a specific condition.

60. The system of claim 59, further including a signaling device for signaling the

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62. The system of claim 61, wherein said personnel based system includes means providing for communication directly between the transport and the personnel.

63. The system of claim 62, wherein said personnel based system includes means providing for communication directly between personnel.